

REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment to US 18025 DIV, filed herewith, which is a divisional of co-pending Application Ser. No. 09/914,411, filed on August 28, 2001, which is a national phase filing under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Application No. PCT/EP00/13346 filed December 21, 2000, which claims priority to EP Application No. 99204565.8 filed December 28, 1999.

By this amendment, the specification has been amended to replace the title of this application, insert a cross-reference to the parent application and correct typographical errors.

Claims 1-22 and 32 are being cancelled inasmuch as these were prosecuted to allowance in the parent application. Claims 23-25 and 30-31 have been amended to correct the dependency of the claims and to more clearly point out and distinctively claim the present invention.

Claims 26-29 have been deleted and new claims 33-35 have been added. Support for the compositions of the copolymers of the new claims may be found from page 15, line 25, to page 16, line 6; feature (A) of claim 33 finds support on page 19, lines 18-20, while feature (B) finds support on page 20, lines 6-9. Claims 34 and 35 are supported by page 20, line 4 and lines 10-12 respectively.

No new matter has been added by these amendments and they do not affect the scope of the claims as originally filed.

An early and favorable action on the merits is requested. The Applicants invite the Examiner to direct any questions or comments to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

It is not believed that any fee is required for entry and consideration of this Amendment; nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge U.S. PTO Deposit Account 08-2336 in the amount of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 3, 2003 with the number of the Express Mail label being ER132932054 US.

John A. Dall'Occo
November 3, 2003
Date of Signature